

The energy provisions in the 2007 Farm Bill should provide new investments in renewable fuels. It should also produce new opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to produce them. In California, biomass resources that are potential fuel sources are largely by-products of agricultural production and forest management. These resources remain largely untapped because investments in technologies and techniques to harness "waste" have not been economically available.

Federal programs can play a key role in helping bring new technologies directly to farmers and ranchers, and are vital to meeting California's energy needs while reducing greenhouse gases.

Currently, California is about 95 percent dependent on petroleum for its transportation needs, and biomass supplies a mere 2 percent of the state's electricity output. California has set an aggressive goal: to produce a minimum of 20 percent of its biofuels in-state by 2010.

A strong Farm Bill can help achieve the state's bioenergy targets by supporting research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) of advanced biomass production, underwriting investments in cellulosic ethanol production from agricultural wastes and forest residuals, dairy to waste energy projects and supporting biofuel

processing facilities.

Forest biomass in the form of small-diameter undergrowth and post-harvest residuals are an energy opportunity. Currently, an estimated 2,000 MW of power in forest residues exist in California forestlands, with only a portion of that residue being used to produce less than 300 MW of power.

Removed with proper environmental safeguards, this forest biomass can provide new energy and also result in an increase in carbon sequestration with a climate benefit.

California has invested heavily in bioenergy. More than 30 biomass and waste energy projects funded by the state include dairy digesters, forest biomass projects, and other agricultural waste-related projects.



More than \$25 million in state RD&D investments have gone into these efforts. Under the 2002 Farm Bill's Energy title, California received \$4.9 million for research and implementation projects related to biomass production.

Investments in biomass energy benefits rural California while providing energy assistance to urban areas. Carefully planned investments provide multiple benefits to our forestlands, farmlands, and the people who manage these lands, and the public at large.

California Supports:

- Improving and expanding the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program as proposed in the new Rural Energy for America Program.
- Expanding and increasing funding for loan guarantees for biorefineries and biofuel production plants as proposed.
- Strengthening the Biomass Research and Demonstration Act to fully support cellulosic ethanol production, and funding that initiative at \$200 million annually.
- Adopting a Forest Bioenergy Research/Forest Biomass for Energy program that is funded at \$50 million per year.